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17 November 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. WISNER

SUBJECT: Over-all Objectives of FIEND

1. When the FIEND operation was originally approved it had as its minimum objective the development of internal conflict in Albania sufficient to materially reduce the ability of Albania to support the Greek guerrillas. The maximum objective was the overthrow of the present Hoxha Government. The maximum objective was considered to be desirable because:

a. It would eliminate Albania as a base for the Greek guerrillas;

b. It would deny to the Soviet military, air and naval forces bases in the Mediterranean;

c. It would serve as a considerable psychological stimulus to other Eastern Europeans by demonstrating the possibility of removing a securely entrenched Communist dictatorship.

2. Since the defeat of the Greek guerrillas (at least for the time being) (a.) above is no longer a factor; (b.) and (c.), however, remain as important as they were when the plans were first approved. In addition, a new element has entered the picture. Yugoslavia is increasingly threatened by guerrilla and/or military attacks by the Soviet Union or Satellites. Albania obviously would be one base for launching these attacks, and as long as Albania is held by the Soviets the entire Albanian-Yugoslav border would have to be defended by Yugoslav troops.

3. The present regime in Albania is reported to be in a very shaky condition, and it is quite possible that the regime may go under regardless of whether or not we undertake economic, propaganda or guerrilla operations against it. If it goes under, regardless of the reasons or the extent to which we contribute, the United States will be faced with the same political vacuum in which Italy, Greece and Yugoslavia will all interest themselves. If we are able to establish within Albania a strong political and military underground, it may well be that the possibilities of conflict between

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Albania's three neighbors will thereby be reduced rather than increased. If at that moment we are able to provide to Italy, Greece and Yugoslavia an alternate political solution, we may be able to induce them to accept it rather than to scrap among themselves for bits and pieces. It may be that we can convince them that it is to their mutual interest to accept our committee-sponsored political group as a better and safer solution than military partition; particularly with Russia ready to exploit such conflicts.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a. That we proceed immediately with the mounting of a propaganda campaign -- the outlines of which are now fairly well established. ✓
- b. That we proceed immediately to develop an economic operation against Albania and implement it insofar as it appears feasible. ✓
- c. That we proceed with the negotiations for the establishment of a holding area in the United States Zone of Germany where we can maintain a reservoir of man-power immediately available for such purposes as may develop.
- d. As the operation progresses we define more clearly our views with respect to the exact nature and composition of the political group which we would sponsor in the event Hoxha is deposed. At the same time we should work in the direction of gaining the ultimate acceptance of Italy, Greece and Yugoslavia to this group if and when such acceptance becomes necessary.
- e. That we dispatch reconnaissance parties into the country from time to time from our German bases, under conditions which in our opinion provide adequate security.

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